

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116  
U.S. Application No. 09/364,315  
Attorney Docket No. A8491

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**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (currently amended): A method of determining access to a system supporting a plurality of simultaneous accesses, the method comprising the steps of:  
  
receiving ~~one or more requests~~ a request to access a the system;  
  
~~for each request~~, determining whether to allow access to the system using an access vector comprising a plurality of access objects, each access object corresponding to one of the simultaneous accesses, ~~to identify an available access object, and~~  
  
allowing access to the system only when at least one of the access objects is available,  
  
and  
  
if access to the system is allowed based on an available access object, changing the available access object to an unavailable access object for the duration of the access,  
  
modifying wherein the number of simultaneous accesses permitted is modifiable by changing a number of access objects in the access vector without halting operation of the system.
2. (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein ~~the each~~ access object comprises information regarding attributes of the access object.

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3. (previously presented): The method of claim 2, wherein the step of determining further comprises the step of evaluating whether the request can be satisfied with an available access object based on one or more attributes of that access object.

4. (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of returning a result to the request.

5. (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of modifying the access vector upon receiving an indication that a request has completed its access to the system.

6. (canceled).

7. (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein the number of access objects in the access vector is increased.

8. (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein the number of access objects in the access vector is decreased.

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9. (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of modifying one or more attributes of an access object.

10. (canceled).

11. (currently amended): An apparatus for determining access to a system supporting a plurality of simultaneous accesses, comprising:

a computer;

one or more computer programs, performed by the computer, for:

receiving ~~one or more requests~~ a request to access ~~a the system; and, for each request;~~

determining whether to allow access to the system using an access vector comprising a plurality of access objects, each access object corresponding to one of the simultaneous accesses; ~~to identify an available access object; and~~

allowing access to the system only when at least one of the access objects is available; and

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if access to the system is allowed based on an available access object, changing the available access object to an unavailable access object for the duration of the access, and

means for modifying the number of simultaneous accesses permitted by changing a number of access objects in the access vector without halting operation of the system.

12. (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 11, wherein ~~the~~ each access object comprises information regarding attributes of the access object.

13. (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 12, wherein determining whether to allow access to the system using an access vector ~~to identify an available access object~~ further comprises evaluating whether the request can be satisfied with an available access object based on one or more attributes of that access object.

14. (original): The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising means for returning a result to the request.

15. (original): The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising means for modifying the access vector upon receiving an indication that a request has completed its access to the system.

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16. (canceled).

17. (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the number of access objects in the access vector is increased.

18. (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the number of access objects in the access vector is decreased.

19. (original): The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising means for modifying one or more attributes of an access object.

20. (canceled).

21. (currently amended): An article of manufacture comprising a computer program carrier readable by a computer and tangibly embodying one or more instructions executable by the computer to perform method steps for determining access to a system supporting a plurality of simultaneous accesses, the method comprising the steps of:

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receiving ~~one or more requests~~ a request to access ~~a the~~ the system;

~~for each request,~~ determining whether to allow access to the system using an access vector comprising a plurality of access objects, each access object corresponding to one of the simultaneous accesses, to identify an available access object; and

allowing access to the system only when at least one of the access objects is available,  
and

if access to the system is allowed based on an available access object, changing the available access object to an unavailable access object for the duration of the access,

modifying wherein the number of simultaneous accesses permitted is modifiable by changing a number of access objects in the access vector without halting operation of the system.

22. (currently amended): The article of manufacture of claim 21, wherein ~~the each~~ access object comprises information regarding attributes of the access object.

23. (previously presented): The article of manufacture of claim 22, wherein the step of determining further comprises the step of evaluating whether the request can be satisfied with an available access object based on one or more attributes of that access object.

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24. (original): The article of manufacture of claim 21, further comprising the step of returning a result to the request.

25. (original): The article of manufacture of claim 21, further comprising the step of modifying the access vector upon receiving an indication that a request has completed its access to the system.

26. (canceled).

27. (currently amended): The article of manufacture of claim 21, wherein the number of access objects in the access vector is increased.

28. (currently amended): The article of manufacture of claim 21, wherein the number of access objects in the access vector is decreased.

29. (original): The article of manufacture of claim 21, further comprising the step of modifying one or more attributes of an access object.

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30. to 55. (canceled).